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Intravenous Drug User Admissions to
Substance Abuse Treatment

FY' 88

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The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Substance Abuse Services provides substance abuse treatment to intravenous drug users (IVDUs) in all modalities. Since FY'85 there has been an increase in the number of IVDUs entering treatment, with a significant increase (54%) between FY'87 and FY'88 (see Figure 1). Based on admissions during the first half of FY '89, an estimated 15,000 IVDUs will utilize publicly-funded substance abuse treatment services in FY '89.

IVDUs are at risk for HIV infection and AIDS. Therefore, treatment agencies must prepare for changes in the client population as more IVDUs enter treatment. This report summarizes the characteristics of IVDUs in the substance abuse treatment system, discusses differences between IVDUs across modalities and compares IVDUs to other clients in selected modalities. Additionally, this report will serve as a baseline to monitor trends in treatment utilization by IVDUs in the substance abuse treatment system.

Results

In FY '88, 12% (n=10,944) of all admissions to treatment were intravenous drug users (IVDUs).¹ Although the proportion of IV drug users was higher in the traditional drug treatment modalities (methadone services, drug detox, therapeutic communities), more IVDUs were treated in traditional alcohol modalities such as alcohol detox and recovery homes (see Table 1).

Characteristics of IVDUs. (Table 2). Approximately three-quarters (72%) of IVDUs were male, and half (51%) were between 30 and 39 years (mean age was 31 years). Two-thirds (65%) were white, 18% were black, and

¹ Includes all methadone admissions plus admissions who reported IV needle use in past 30 days.



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13% were Hispanic. Over half (55%) were never married and 60% had children. One-third (33%) lived with parents or family, while 31% lived with spouse and/or children. Three-quarters (75%) of IVDUs were not working and the majority of clients (63%) had annual incomes below the poverty level (less than \$7,500). Almost one in ten IVDUs was homeless, and 63% did not have public or private health insurance. IVDUs consumed a variety of substances 30 days prior to admission: 83% used heroin, 63% used cocaine, and 60% used alcohol. The majority (67%) used IV needles more than once a day, while almost one-fifth (19%) used needles 1-7 times per week.

Comparison of IVDUs Across Modalities. IVDUs in the six major modalities (alcohol detox, drug detox, recovery home, therapeutic community, outpatient and methadone maintenance) accounted for 82% of all IVDUs in the substance abuse treatment system. The remaining 18% (n=1,916) of IVDUs were admitted to other modalities (a variety of smaller modalities). Over two-thirds (69%) of the "other" group were criminal justice admissions (including Bridgewater-MCI). (See Table 1).

An examination of the differences among IVDUs in the six major substance abuse treatment modalities (Table 3) indicated that female IVDUs were more likely to be admitted to methadone maintenance (41%), therapeutic communities (40%), and drug detox (37%) than to outpatient (29%), recovery homes (27%), or alcohol detox (11%). Minority IVDU admissions (48%) comprised almost half of all IVDU outpatient admissions, about one-third of therapeutic community (36%) and alcohol detox (29%) admissions and one-fifth of admissions to recovery homes (21%), drug detox (21%) and methadone maintenance (21%). A greater proportion of blacks

were admitted to therapeutic communities (24%) and outpatient (24%) than methadone maintenance (12%) or drug detox (11%).

Methadone maintenance clients were one to two years older (mean age of 32 years) than IVDUs in other treatment modalities, with the majority (69%) of clients 30 years or older. IVDUs in residential programs were less likely to be married (therapeutic communities and recovery homes, 9% each) than IVDUs in methadone maintenance (21%). Over half of IVDUs in all modalities had children, especially those in methadone maintenance (64%).

The majority (over 60%) of IVDUs in all modalities were not working, although methadone maintenance (40%) and outpatient (27%) had the largest percentage of working clients. Alcohol detox had the greatest proportion (20%) of homeless IVDUs. Health insurance coverage (includes both public and private) was reported by over half the IVDUs in recovery homes (57%) and methadone maintenance (54%), but only one-third or less reported insurance coverage in the other treatment modalities. The greatest percentage of IVDUs reporting heroin use (94%) were found in methadone maintenance, cocaine use (83%) in therapeutic communities and alcohol use (87%) in recovery homes (see Table 3).

IVDUs Compared to Non-IVDUs. (Tables 4-8). A comparison of IVDUs to non-IVDUs in different treatment modalities showed that black clients in drug detox (Table 4) were less likely to be IVDUs (11%) than non-IVDUs (26%). Conversely, black and Hispanic clients in alcohol detox (Table 5) were more likely to be IVDUs than non-IVDUs (18% vs. 10% and 11% vs. 2% respectively). In comparison to non-IVDUs black IVDUs were more likely to be admitted to alcohol detox than drug detox.

While IVDUs in therapeutic communities were older than non-IVDUs (Table 6), the reverse was true in recovery homes, where almost one-quarter of non-IVDUs were 40 years or more (Table 7). IVDUs in residential treatment (therapeutic communities and recovery homes) were more likely to be poly-substance abusers.

Half (48%) of IVDUs in outpatient treatment (Table 8) were minorities. The majority of IVDUs were unemployed (73%), well below the poverty level and reported more heroin (82%) and cocaine (66%) use than non-IVDUs. They also remained in treatment for a shorter period of time (81 days vs. 120 days).

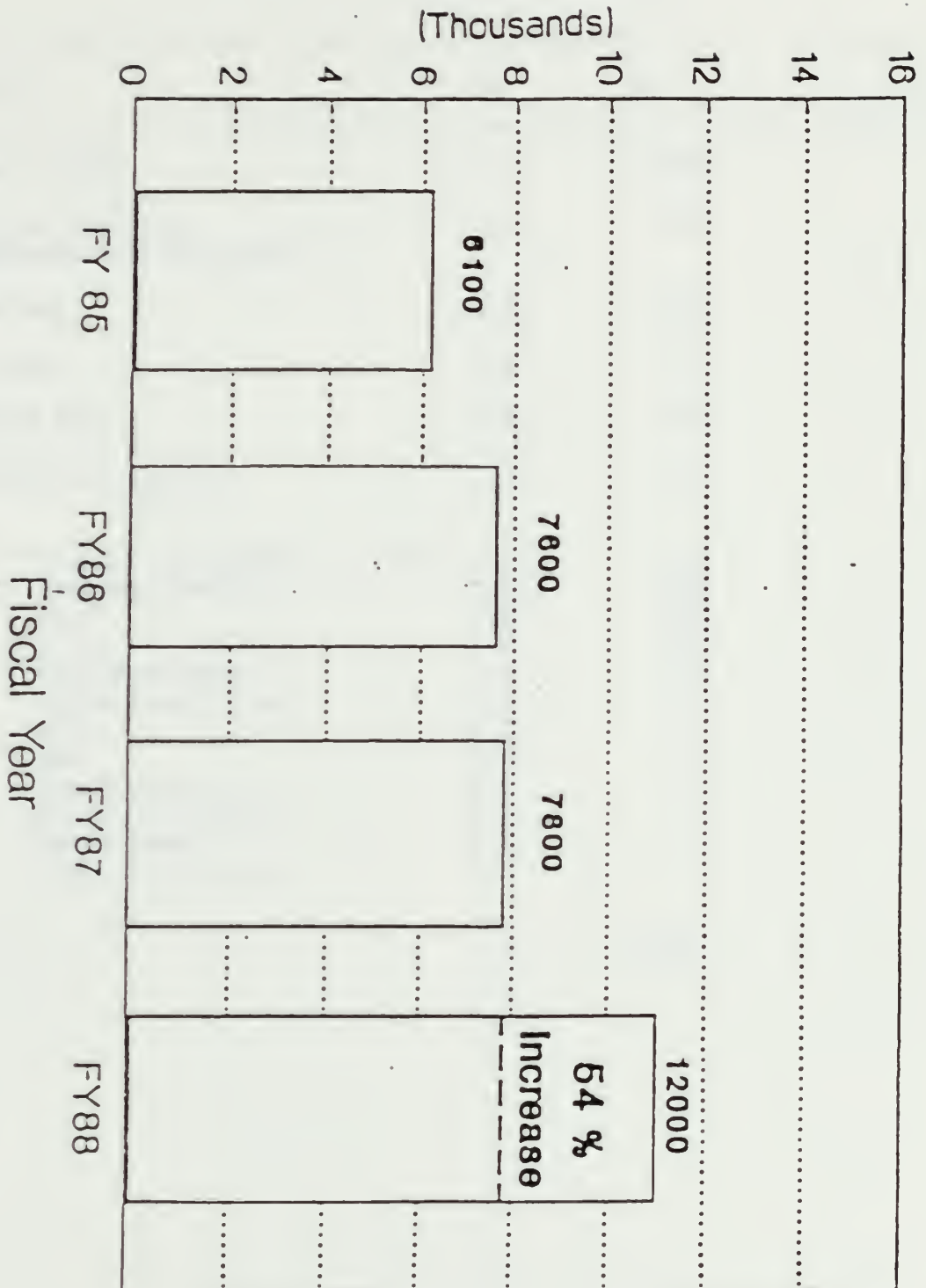
Discussion

Every substance abuse treatment modality serves IVDUs. Although many IVDUs are treated in methadone services, drug detox and therapeutic communities, significant numbers of IVDUs enter alcohol detox and recovery homes. IVDUs are a seriously impaired population. During FY'88, they abused many substances, were not employed, lacked health insurance and one in ten were homeless. Minorities accounted for a large percentage of IVDU admissions in all modalities except drug detox.

The most striking finding of this analysis is that IVDUs are increasing and permeating all treatment modalities. With more IVDUs seeking treatment, careful observation of increases in utilization patterns in all modalities is essential.

The AIDS epidemic and risks for HIV infection will restructure much of substance abuse treatment in the future. The capacity for programs to develop strategies and programming appropriate to the AIDS crisis will depend not only on knowledge about drug treatment, but an understanding of the IV drug using population.

Figure 1



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 Table 1
IV Drug Use Admissions by Modality
FY' 88

Modality	%	N
Alcohol Detox	23.1	2526
Methadone Services (Includes non-contracted)	22.6	2472
Outpatient	16.4	1761
Drug Detox	12.2	1339
Recovery Home	6.2	678
Therapeutic Community	2.3	252
Other		
Chronic Care(Bridgewater MCI)	8.4	978
Criminal Justice	3.2	353
TCF	1.7	190
STITT	1.5	159
Non-traditional	1.2	135
Non-medical Detox	0.3	31
DUIL	0.2	19
DAE	0.2	19
Voc/Education	0.1	12
Youth Intervention	0.1	7
Sober House	0.1	7
Youth Residential	0.1	6
Total		10,944

Characteristics of IVDU Admissions in FY'88

Characteristics	%	N (10,944)
<u>Sex</u>		
Female	27.6	3024
Male	72.4	7920
<u>Race</u>		
Black	17.5	1919
Hispanic	13.1	1439
White	65.4	7153
Other	4.0	433
<u>Age</u>		
13-19	1.9	208
20-29	39.1	4278
30-39	51.1	5592
40-49	7.1	782
50+	0.8	84
<u>Mean Age</u>	31.1	10,944
<u>Mean Education</u>	11.3	10,944
<u>Marital Status</u>		
Never Married	55.3	6049
Married	14.7	1612
Separated	10.8	1179
Divorced	17.9	1954
Widowed	1.4	150
<u>Children</u>		
Yes	60.1	6573
No	39.9	4371
<u>Employment</u>		
Working	25.1	2742
Not Working	74.9	8202

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Table 2
(continued)

Characteristics of IVDU Admissions in FY'88

Characteristics	%	N (10,944)
<u>Annual Income</u>		
Less than \$1,000	33.8	3699
\$ 1,000 to \$ 7,499	29.6	3237
\$ 7,500 to \$14,999	17.9	1962
\$15,000 or more	18.7	2046
<u>Where Client Lives</u>		
House/Apt./Room	87.3	9558
Inst./GPP Home	3.4	367
Streets/Shelter	9.3	1019
<u>Client Lives With</u>		
Spouse &/or Children	31.1	3398
Parent/Family	33.4	3655
Roommate/Friend	15.2	1663
No One/Alone	20.4	2227
<u>Health Insurance</u>		
No	63.0	6898
Yes	37.0	4046
<u>Alcohol Use</u>	59.6	6528
<u>Heroin Use</u>	82.6	9044
<u>Cocaine/Crack Use</u>	63.4	6941
<u>IV Needle Use Frequency</u>		
More than once a day	66.5	7275
1-7 times per week	19.4	2114
1-3 times past month	11.0	1206
No use past month	3.2	349

Characteristics of IV Drug Users
by Modality - FY 88 (in Percent)

Characteristics	Drug Detox (N=1339)	Alcohol Detox (N=2526)	TC (N=252)	Recovery Home (N=678)	Methadone Maintenance (N=2472)*	Out- Patient (N=1761)
<u>Sex</u>						
Female	37.0	19.2	40.0	27.0	40.6	28.9
Male	63.0	80.8	60.0	73.0	59.4	71.1
<u>Race</u>						
Black	10.6	18.0	23.8	14.8	12.2	23.9
Hispanic	10.0	11.4	11.9	6.3	8.6	23.9
White	74.9	68.4	61.1	72.0	73.0	49.8
Other	4.5	2.3	3.2	6.9	6.2	2.4
<u>Age</u>						
13-19	1.7	1.9	1.6	1.9	1.1	2.2
20-29	40.3	40.4	48.8	42.8	31.0	44.1
30-39	51.6	47.8	45.6	49.1	59.5	47.0
40-49	5.7	8.7	3.6	5.9	7.6	6.1
50+	0.7	1.1	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.5
<u>Mean Age</u>	31	31	30	31	32	30
<u>Mean Education</u>	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.7	11.5	11.0
<u>Marital Status</u>						
Never Married	55.2	54.8	59.1	55.6	48.2	59.1
Married	13.5	12.0	9.5	9.1	21.4	15.8
Separated	12.3	10.8	12.7	12.7	10.6	10.7
Divorced	17.6	21.9	16.3	21.5	17.4	13.3
Widowed	1.4	0.6	2.4	1.1	2.4	1.1
<u>Children</u>						
Yes	60.5	57.8	54.8	56.1	63.6	63.5
No	39.5	42.2	45.2	43.9	36.0	36.5
<u>Employment</u>						
Working	13.2	22.6	6.4	8.0	39.1	26.8
Not Working	86.8	77.4	93.6	92.0	60.9	73.2

* Includes non-contracted methadone programs.

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Table 3 (continued)
Characteristics of IV Drug Users
by Modality - FY 88 (in Percent)

Characteristics	Drug Detox (N=1339)	Alcohol Detox (N=2526)	TC (N=252)	Recovery Home (N=678)	Methadone Maintenance (N=2472) ^a	Out- Patient (N=1761)
<u>Annual Income</u>						
Less than \$1,000	37.1	33.6	38.5	28.3	16.8	39.7
\$ 1,000 to \$ 7,499	30.6	33.2	30.2	30.8	32.7	30.7
\$ 7,500 to \$14,999	16.4	16.4	18.7	21.2	21.6	17.9
\$15,000 or more	15.9	16.8	12.7	19.6	28.8	11.7
<u>Where Client Lives</u>						
House/Apt./Room	94.6	78.5	89.7	85.8	97.5	89.2
Inst./Grp.Home	0.2	2.0	2.4	4.9	0.4	4.7
Streets/Shelter	5.2	19.5	7.9	9.3	2.1	6.1
<u>Client Lives With</u>						
Spouse &/or Child.	31.8	20.6	28.6	23.8	49.1	31.8
Parent/Family	41.4	29.3	41.7	29.4	30.7	37.1
Roomate/Friend	13.3	16.6	13.5	19.6	8.7	16.8
No One/Alone	13.5	33.5	16.3	27.3	11.5	14.3
<u>Health Insurance</u>						
No	66.8	68.8	72.6	43.4	46.2	64.9
Yes	33.2	31.2	27.4	56.6	53.8	35.1
<u>Alcohol Use</u>	61.6	85.1	55.2	87.2	37.9	52.1
<u>Heroin Use</u>	93.0	65.7	86.9	75.4	94.3	82.2
<u>Cocaine/Crack Use</u>	68.6	78.6	83.3	78.0	38.5	65.6
<u>Mean Length of Time in Treatment^b</u>						
	12 days	4 days	71 days	84 days	109 days	81 days

^a Includes non-contracted methadone programs.

^b Calculated using only inactive clients (discharged or non-billing 90 days).

Comparison of IV Drug Users and Non-IV Drug Users
In Drug Detox for FY '88 (in Percent)

Characteristics	IV Drug Use	
	No (N=501)	Yes (N=1338)
<u>Sex</u>		
Female	32.7	37.0
Male	67.3	63.0
<u>Race</u>		
Black	25.8	10.6
Hispanic	7.2	10.0
White	64.3	74.9
Other	2.8	4.5
<u>Age</u>		
13-19	6.8	1.7
20-29	61.1	40.3
30-39	27.0	51.6
40-49	5.0	5.7
50+	0.2	0.7
<u>Mean Age</u>	27.5	30.8
<u>Mean Education</u>	11.6	11.4
<u>Marital Status</u>		
Never Married	62.7	55.2
Married	17.6	13.5
Separated	8.2	12.3
Divorced	10.8	17.6
Widowed	0.8	1.4
<u>Children</u>		
Yes	50.7	60.5
No	49.3	39.5
<u>Employment</u>		
Working	23.2	13.2
Not Working	76.9	86.8

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Table 4
(continued)

Comparison of IV Drug Users and Non-IV Drug Users
In Drug Detox for FY '88 (in Percent)

Characteristics	IV Drug Use	
	No (N=501)	Yes (N=1338)
<u>Annual Income</u>		
Less than \$1,000	31.9	37.1
\$ 1,000 to \$ 7,499	22.8	30.6
\$ 7,500 to \$14,999	23.1	16.4
\$15,000 or more	22.2	15.9
<u>Where Client Lives</u>		
House/Apt./Room	95.0	94.6
Inst./GPP Home	0.0	0.2
Streets/Shelter	5.0	5.2
<u>Client Lives With</u>		
Spouse &/or Children	30.7	31.8
Parent/Family	44.9	41.4
Roommate/Friend	10.2	13.3
No One/Alone	14.2	13.5
<u>Health Insurance</u>		
No	65.5	66.8
Yes	34.5	33.2
<u>Alcohol Use</u>	72.1	61.6
<u>Heroin Use</u>	21.0	93.0
<u>Cocaine/Crack Use</u>	80.8	68.6
<u>Mean Length of Time in Treatment*</u>	14 days	12 days

* Calculated using only inactive clients (discharged or non-billing 90 days).

Comparison of IV Drug Users and Non-IV Drug Users
In Alcohol Detox for FY '88 (in Percent)

Characteristics	IV Drug Use	
	No (N=28,372)	Yes (N=2,525)
<u>Sex</u>		
Female	14.9	19.2
Male	85.1	80.8
<u>Race</u>		
Black	9.7	18.0
Hispanic	2.7	11.4
White	85.6	68.4
Other	2.5	2.3
<u>Age</u>		
13-19	1.7	1.9
20-29	23.9	40.4
30-39	34.8	47.8
40-49	22.2	8.7
50+	17.5	1.1
<u>Mean Age</u>	38.1	31.2
<u>Mean Education</u>	11.4	11.5
<u>Marital Status</u>		
Never Married	43.6	54.8
Married	11.9	12.0
Separated	10.0	10.8
Divorced	31.5	21.9
Widowed	3.2	0.6
<u>Children</u>		
Yes	56.3	57.8
No	43.7	42.2
<u>Employment</u>		
Working	28.7	22.6
Not Working	71.3	77.4

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Table 5
(continued)

Comparison of IV Drug Users and Non-IV Drug Users
In Alcohol Detox for FY '88 (in Percent)

Characteristics	IV Drug Use	
	No (N=28,372)	Yes (N=2,525)
<u>Annual Income</u>		
Less than \$1,000	32.9	33.6
\$ 1,000 to \$ 7,499	30.8	33.2
\$ 7,500 to \$14,999	18.9	16.4
\$15,000 or more	17.4	16.8
<u>Where Client Lives</u>		
House/Apt./Room	69.8	78.5
Inst./GPP Home	1.9	2.1
Streets/Shelter	28.3	19.5
<u>Client Lives With</u>		
Spouse &/or Children	17.5	20.6
Parent/Family	20.5	29.3
Roommate/Friend	15.0	16.6
No One/Alone	47.0	33.5
<u>Health Insurance</u>		
No	68.3	68.8
Yes	31.7	31.3
<u>Alcohol Use</u>	97.6	85.1
<u>Heroin Use</u>	1.8	65.7
<u>Cocaine/Crack Use</u>	1.1	10.8
<u>Mean Length of Time in Treatment^a</u>	4 days	4 days

^a Calculated using only inactive clients (discharged or non-billing 90 days).

Comparison of IV Drug Users and Non-IV Drug Users
In Therapeutic Communities for FY '88 (in Percent)

Characteristics	IV Drug Use	
	No (N=428)	Yes (N=252)
<u>Sex</u>		
Female	36.7	40.1
Male	63.3	59.9
<u>Race</u>		
Black	27.1	23.8
Hispanic	7.7	11.9
White	61.9	61.1
Other	3.3	3.2
<u>Age</u>		
13-19	12.2	1.6
20-29	55.8	48.8
30-39	27.6	45.6
40-49	4.0	3.6
50+	0.5	0.4
<u>Mean Age</u>	26.7	29.5
<u>Mean Education</u>	11.1	11.4
<u>Marital Status</u>		
Never Married	74.1	59.1
Married	7.9	9.5
Separated	9.4	12.7
Divorced	7.2	16.3
Widowed	1.4	2.4
<u>Children</u>		
Yes	48.4	54.8
No	51.6	45.2
<u>Employment</u>		
Working	8.6	6.4
Not Working	91.4	93.7

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Table 6
(continued)

Comparison of IV Drug Users and Non-IV Drug Users
In Therapeutic Communities for FY '88 (in Percent)

Characteristics	IV Drug Use	
	No (N=428)	Yes (N=252)
<u>Annual Income</u>		
Less than \$1,000	45.6	38.5
\$ 1,000 to \$ 7,499	27.6	30.2
\$ 7,500 to \$14,999	16.1	18.7
\$15,000 or more	10.8	12.7
<u>Where Client Lives</u>		
House/Apt./Room	88.6	89.7
Inst./GPP Home	5.8	2.4
Streets/Shelter	5.6	7.9
<u>Client Lives With</u>		
Spouse &/or Children	18.0	28.6
Parent/Family	47.0	41.7
Roommate/Friend	22.2	13.5
No One/Alone	12.9	16.3
<u>Health Insurance</u>		
No	68.7	72.6
Yes	31.3	27.4
<u>Alcohol Use</u>	33.9	55.2
<u>Heroin Use</u>	7.0	86.9
<u>Cocaine/Crack Use</u>	48.4	83.3
<u>Mean Length of Time in Treatment*</u>	74 days	68 days

* Calculated using only inactive clients (discharged or non-billing 90 days).

Comparison of IV Drug Users and Non-IV Drug Users
In Recovery Homes for FY '88 (in Percent)

Characteristics	IV Drug Use	
	No (N=3,864)	Yes (N=678)
<u>Sex</u>		
Female	17.4	27.0
Male	82.6	73.0
<u>Race</u>		
Black	11.2	14.8
Hispanic	4.5	6.3
White	81.4	72.0
Other	2.9	6.9
<u>Age</u>		
13-19	2.9	1.9
20-29	38.0	42.8
30-39	36.6	49.1
40-49	15.0	5.9
50+	7.5	0.3
<u>Mean Age</u>	33.2	30.6
<u>Mean Education</u>	11.8	11.7
<u>Marital Status</u>		
Never Married	55.6	55.6
Married	7.0	9.1
Separated	11.0	12.7
Divorced	24.7	21.5
Widowed	1.8	1.0
<u>Children</u>		
Yes	47.4	56.1
No	52.6	43.9
<u>Employment</u>		
Working	9.5	8.0
Not Working	90.5	92.0

Comparison of IV Drug Users and Non-IV Drug Users
In Recovery Homes for FY '88 (in Percent)

Characteristics	IV Drug Use	
	No (N=3,864)	Yes (N=678)
<u>Annual Income</u>		
Less than \$1,000	22.9	28.3
\$ 1,000 to \$ 7,499	36.9	30.8
\$ 7,500 to \$14,999	25.4	21.2
\$15,000 or more	14.8	19.6
<u>Where Client Lives</u>		
House/Apt./Room	79.6	85.8
Inst./GPP Home	4.7	4.9
Streets/Shelter	15.7	9.3
<u>Client Lives With</u>		
Spouse &/or Children	15.6	23.8
Parent/Family	26.1	29.4
Roommate/Friend	19.3	19.6
No One/Alone	39.1	27.3
<u>Health Insurance</u>		
No	43.1	43.4
Yes	56.9	56.6
<u>Alcohol Use</u>	72.8	87.2
<u>Heroin Use</u>	2.9	75.4
<u>Cocaine/Crack Use</u>	24.4	78.0
<u>Mean Length of Time in Treatment*</u>	89 days	84 days

* Calculated using only inactive clients (discharged or non-billing 90 days).

Comparison of IV Drug Users and Non-IV Drug Users
In Outpatient for FY '88 (in Percent)

Characteristics	IV Drug Use	
	No (N=23,379)	Yes (N=1761)
<u>Sex</u>		
Female	30.2	28.9
Male	69.8	71.1
<u>Race</u>		
Black	10.4	23.9
Hispanic	5.8	23.9
White	80.5	49.8
Other	3.3	2.4
<u>Age</u>		
13-19	11.9	2.2
20-29	40.9	44.1
30-39	29.7	47.0
40-49	10.8	6.1
50+	6.8	0.5
<u>Mean Age</u>	31	30
<u>Mean Education</u>	12	11
<u>Marital Status</u>		
Never Married	55.9	59.1
Married	19.3	15.8
Separated	7.8	10.7
Divorced	15.2	13.3
Widowed	1.9	1.1
<u>Children</u>		
Yes	47.4	63.5
No	52.6	36.5
<u>Employment</u>		
Working	58.1	26.8
Not Working	41.9	73.2

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Table 8
(continued)

Comparison of IV Drug Users and Non-IV Drug Users
In Outpatient for FY '88 (in Percent)

Characteristics	IV Drug Use	
	No (N=23,379)	Yes (N=1761)
<u>Annual Income</u>		
Less than \$1,000	17.8	39.7
\$ 1,000 to \$ 7,499	23.5	30.7
\$ 7,500 to \$14,999	29.2	17.9
\$15,000 or more	29.5	11.7
<u>Where Client Lives</u>		
House/Apt./Room	94.1	89.2
Inst./GPP Home	3.4	4.7
Streets/Shelter	2.6	6.1
<u>Client Lives With</u>		
Spouse &/or Children	35.1	31.8
Parent/Family	34.3	37.1
Roommate/Friend	14.5	16.8
No One/Alone	16.2	14.3
<u>Health Insurance</u>		
No	46.0	64.9
Yes	54.0	35.1
<u>Alcohol Use</u>	59.3	52.1
<u>Heroin Use</u>	2.2	82.2
<u>Cocaine/Crack Use</u>	14.8	65.6
<u>Mean Length of Time in Treatment*</u>	120 days	81 days

* Calculated using only inactive clients (discharged or non-billing 90 days).

